

PATENT

Atty. Dkt No. ROC820010052US1

MPS Ref. No.: IBMK10052

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated October 22, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 22, 2005. Applicants submit this response to place the application in condition for allowance. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-8 and 10-39 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 7, 8, 10-20, 24 and 27-39 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 21-23, 25 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 4, 7, 24 and 27 have been amended to overcome the objections stated by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Claims 1-2 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hanson et al*, and claims 3, 6, 23, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hanson et al*. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's positions with respect to these rejections, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 6, 21-23 and 26 in view of the allowable subject matter in the other pending claims to move the prosecution forward.

Claims 4-5, 7, 24-25, and 27 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 4, 7, 24 and 27 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the objections have been overcome and respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

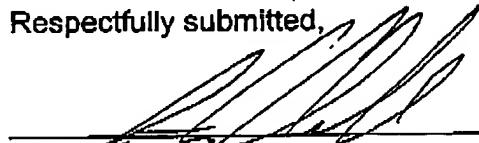
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Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Gere G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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